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Marquette officials say Rewald diplomas are fakes

By Jim Berg — — —
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The Marquette University diplomas displayed by Ronald Rewald are fakes, officials from the Wisconsin university testified yesterday.

Rewald never enrolled at Marquette but was listed on the alumni rolls after he sent in \$10 to get a card saying he was a Marquette law school graduate, the officials said.

Rewald also wrote to the university about getting Marquette-labeled cocktail napkins, balloons and posters for alumni social events here and was sent a list of Marquette alumni in Hawaii, they testified.

The contrived association with Marquette was part of the phony web of respectability Rewald wove to lure investors, prosecutors have said.

The parade of hostile witnesses continued yesterday against the former Honolulu socialite and polo enthusiast, charged with 98 counts of fraud, perjury and tax evasion in connection with the collapse in 1983 of Bishop Baldwin Rewald Dillingham & Wong. The government says Rewald took in some \$22 million from investors and spent much of it on a lavish lifestyle, including sex for hire.

Rewald says the company was a cover set up by the Central Intelligence Agency, which denies any involvement.

Prosecution witnesses today are expected to include TV star Jack Lord and a former Playboy playmate.

Anthony Tortorella, an associate registrar at Marquette, said he first searched university records for Rewald's name in August 1983, when a request came in from the Securities and Exchange Commission. Neither that nor later searches turned up any sign of Rewald having attended courses, Tortorella said.

Rewald's diplomas indicate he was awarded one degree in 1963 and two, including a "Bachelor of Laws," in 1966. But Tortorella said the documents have the wrong signatures and use English instead of the Latin then traditional at Marquette. Also, in 1966 Marquette began call-

ing its law degree a "juris doctorate."

Separate records kept by Marquette's alumni liaison staff do show Rewald as having received a law degree in 1964, said Alfred Eberle Jr., executive director of Marquette's alumni relations division.

That listing came after Rewald sent in \$10 in August 1973 with a request for a card saying he was a Marquette law graduate, Eberle said. Eberle said Rewald's name was added without checking with the registrar's records, a procedure that he has since made mandatory.

Among other testimony yesterday:

● Bishop Baldwin made false claims that its books were audited by the reputable Price Waterhouse accounting firm, said Mark Klein, former partner-in-charge of the Honolulu office of Price Waterhouse Co.

● Donna Eustace said she and her husband, a chiropractor, invested their \$200,000 in retirement savings with Bishop Baldwin in June 1983 after Rewald promised them 26 percent annual interest with a "very conservative" portfolio. Rewald told the couple \$150,000 would be insured against loss. She said the only return she received was a dividend check for \$876 that Rewald cashed her a week later.

● Blanche "Tina" Cooper said she met Rewald in May 1982, had occasional sex with him after he offered to pay her rent on an apartment and eventually invested \$42,881 with him. Payments to her from Rewald for rent, furniture and other expenses were about \$3,800, written on the Bishop Baldwin account, she said.

● Mokuleia polo veteran Fred Dailey testified that he sold a horse named Sweetheart to Rewald for \$4,000 and that Rewald paid \$15,800 over the years to board from six to eight polo ponies at Mokuleia. Dailey said payments were made by Bishop Baldwin checks.

● Other witnesses said Rewald used Bishop Baldwin money to furnish his Kalaianaele house with closed-circuit TVs, smoke alarms and outdoor lights and to pay for carpet and swimming pool cleaning and upholstery for his Rolls Royce.